

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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JCS WASHDC
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NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERISTY WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 03935

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, UR, US
SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE AND MILITARY LECTURER
VISITS TO THE USSR

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1306, (B) STATE 4401 (NOTAL)

1. PER REF B, THE REQUEST FOR THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE
VISIT TO THE USSR DURING THE PERIOD 9-22 APRIL 78 WAS
PRESENTED TO MFA AND MOD ON 16 FEB 78. RECIPRO-
CAL INVITATION WAS ALSO PROFERRED. THE PROPOSAL FOR A
LATER MILITARY LECTURE EXCHANGE WAS NOT TABLED AT THAT
TIME SO AS NOT JEOPARDIZE A PROMPT, FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO
THE PRINCIPAL REQUEST.

2. DATT WAS GIVEN SOVIET REPLY, WHICH IS A COUNTER
PROPOSAL, BY MOD (UVS) ON 6 MARCH 78. INSTEAD OF
EXCHANGING WAR COLLEGE VISITS, THEY PROPOSE TO WIDEN AND
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ELEVATE THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM BY EXCHANGING DELEGA-
TIONS OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF LAND FORCES IN 1978, AIR
FORCES (WITHOUT AIRCRAFT) IN 1979, AND MILITARY MUSEUM
CURATORS THEREAFTER. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE FIRST
DELEGATION BE HEADED BY A 2 OR 3 STAR GENERAL, THAT IT
CONSIST OF 5 OR 6 SENIOR OFFICERS (IN THEIR CASE TO COME
FROM THE FORCES COMMANDED BY MARSHAL PAVLOVSKIY), THAT THE

VISIT LAST 7-8 DAYS, THAT THE US DELEGATION VISIT THE USSR IN THE SECOND HALF OF JULY 78, THAT THE SOVIETS VISIT THE US IN OCTOBER 78, AND THAT ALL EXPENSES EXCEPT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BE BORNE BY THE HOST COUNTRY.

3. SOVIETS CAREFULLY AND REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT THAT THEIR PROPOSAL WAS MEANT TO ENLARGE AND ESCALATE THE CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES, NOT TO CONSTRICT THEM. THEY CONSIDER THE EXCHANGE OF WAR COLLEGES TO BE NON-PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT SINCE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE EQUIVALENT SCHOOL SYSTEM. THEY ALSO REPEATED THEIR POSITION THAT CIVILIAN STUDENTS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, WHEN WAR COLLEGE EXCHANGES WERE RE-INITIATED, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CIVILIANS IN THE MOD. HERE, AGAIN, THEY TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN THAT WAR COLLEGE EXCHANGE VISITS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED DEAD, BUT AS AN IDEA TO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN IN THE FUTURE. THEY LISTENED PATIENTLY TO THE US EXPLANATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WAR COLLEGES, OF THE CHANGING STUDENT BODY, OF THE INTEREST IN THIS GROUP (WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY OCCUPY HIGH GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS) TO KNOW THE SOVIET UNION BETTER; THEY CLEARLY, THOUGH, COULD ONLY LISTEN, AND HAD NO AUTHORITY TO RESPOND.

4. THE PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE THE MILITARY LECTURE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 3, REF B, WAS MADE BY DATT, AND WAS CAREFULLY NOTED BY THE SOVIETS WITH A PROMISE TO STUDY AND REPLY. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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GEN LT ZHILIN WOULD VISIT THE US IN APRIL AS A GUEST OF BG COLLINS; THAT THE INCIDENTS AT SEA DELEGATION WOULD VISIT AS PLANNED; THAT THE INVITATION TO A SOVIET AIR FORCE HISTORIAN TO ATTEND A HISTORY SYMPOSIUM WAS UNDER STUDY.

5. WE SEE MERIT IN ACCEPTING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH WE PROBABLY BENEFITED MORE THAN THE SOVIETS FROM THE WAR COLLEGE EXCHANGE DUE TO THEIR PROPENSITY TO SEND ACADEMICIANS AND OUR SENDING PROSPECTIVE LEADERS, WE ALSO SEE MUCH TO BE GAINED BY THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF SENIOR OFFICERS. AT ANY RATE, THE TIMING OF OUR APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS, SHOULD THEIR PROPOSAL BE ACCEPTABLE, SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE SITUATION EXISTANT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE RELATED TO THE SOVIETS' CONDUCT ON THE WORLD SCENE AS WELL AS SOVIET TREATMENT OF PROMINENT DISSIDENTS - VIZ. SCHARANSKIY. TOON.

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Message Attributes

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